

CATALOGUE

OF THE

SOUTH AFRICAN SNAKES IN THE COLLECTIONS OF
THE TRANSVAAL MUSEUM, PRETORIA, THE
ALBANY MUSEUM, GRAHAMSTOWN, AND THE
STATE MUSEUM, BLOEMFONTEIN.

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Transvaal Museum.

After having identified the snakes in the Collections of the Albany Museum, Grahamstown, of the State Museum, Bloemfontein, and of the Transvaal Museum, Pretoria, in all about 1000 specimens, the records obtained appear to me interesting chiefly because of their bearing on the problem of Geographical Distribution.

Exact records of the localities from whence specimens of South African snakes have been obtained are rare, and as Mr. Boulenger remarks ("On a collection of Batrachians and Reptiles made in South Africa" by Mr. C. B. H. Grant, *etc.*, P.Z.S., 1905, II., p. 248), "Our knowledge of the exact distribution of these animals in South Africa is still very imperfect."

The list of records published here should go some way towards making their distribution better known, although still hardly sufficient to justify any attempt to map out the range of any of the species, even with the addition of the published records of other observers.

In synonymy and systematic arrangement I have strictly followed Mr. Boulenger's Catalogue of the British Museum.*

Comparing Mr. Sclater's list of South African species of snakes (Ann. S.A. Mus. I., pp. 97-102) it will be seen that my list does not contain twenty-five [exclusive *Lycodon aulicus*

* Since receiving the revised proofs of this paper, "Herpetology of Japan," by L. Stejneger, has come to hand; the changes in Nomenclature, there proposed, have consequently not been able to be followed.

(Linné)] of the eighty species there mentioned, but that six additions to the fauna-list have been made, including four new species.

Although the new species discovered have been published elsewhere, their descriptions are here again given at length.

The species not observed by me were :—

- 1 Typhlops braminus (*Daud.*)
- 2 Typhlops verticalis (*Smith*)
- 3 Typhlops anchietae (*Bocage*)
- 4 Typhlops mossambicus (*Peters*)
- 5 Typhlops mucroso (*Peters*)
- 6 Typhlops schinzi (*Boettger*)
- 7 Glauconia scutifrons (*Peters*)
- 8 Tropidonotus olivaceus (*Peters*)
- 9 Lamprophis fiski *Boulenger*
- 10 Lamprophis fuscus *Boulenger*
- 11 Boodon guttatus (*Smith*)
- 12 Boodon mentalis *Günther*
[*Lycodon aulicus* (*Linné*)]
- 13 Chlorophis irregularis (*Leach*)
- 14 Prosymna frontalis (*Peters*)
- 15 Homalosoma variegatum *Peters*
- 16 Grayia lubrica *Sclater*
- 17 Pythonodipsas carinata *Günther*
- 18 Rhamphiophis multimaculatus (*Smith*)
- 19 Psammophis trigrammus *Günther*
- 20 Psammophis jallæ *Peracca*
- 21 Calamelaps concolor (*Smith*)
- 22 Macrelaps microlepidotus (*Günther*)
- 23 Elapechis decosteri (*Boulenger*)
- 24 Naia anchietae *Bocage*
- 25 Bitis gabonica (*Dum. & Bibron*)

A key will be found after the list of specimens, which will be useful in determining South African species: being based entirely on external characteristics, it enables the classification of a single specimen, without destroying it for Museum purposes. It is admitted that the key is a very artificial one.

In this place I wish to express my sincere gratitude to the Authorities of the Albany Museum (especially Dr. Duerden) and of the State Museum for the kind manner and scientific spirit in which they placed their collections at my disposal.

**List of Species and Specimens in the Transvaal,
the Albany, and the Bloemfontein Museums.**

TYPHLOPIDÆ.

TYPHLOPS BIBRONI (*Smith*).

Blind Snake. Blindslang.

*Ground Snake or Two-Headed Snake. Aard Slang.
Tweekop Slang.*

	<i>District.</i>	<i>Date.</i>	<i>Donor.</i>
P*. 1, 2	Lydenburg	1896	Krantz
3	Modderfontein	1906	Haagner
4, 5	Shilowane, Zoutpans- berg District	1904-5	Junod
6, 7	No history (T)		
8	Krabbefontein, Zout- pansberg District		Breyer
9, 10	Pretoria		
11	Pretoria	1899	
12	Pretoria	1897	Du Preez
13	No history (T)		
14	Carolina District	1906	Horsbrugh
15	Mbabane	1906	Horsbrugh
16	Kingsdown, Bethal	1907	Simpson
A. 17	Woest Hill, Grahams- town	1892	Schönland
18, 19	No record		
B. 20, 21, 22	No record		

TYPHLOPS SCHLEGELI *Bianconi*.

Schlegel's Blind Snake.

P. 1	Selati	1896	Flygare
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TYPHLOPS DELALANDEI *Schlegel*.

Delalande's Blind Snake.

P. 1, 2	Frederikstad	1906	Cable
3	No record (T)		
4	Vereeniging	1907	Fry
A. 5	Dumbrody	1903	O'Neill
6, 7, 8	No records (C.C.)		

* Note.—In the following list the letter P. denotes specimens belonging to the Pretoria, A. to the Grahamstown and B. to the Bloemfontein Museum.

TYPHLOPS PUNCTATUS (*Leach*).

A. 1 No record

GLAUCONIIDÆ.

GLAUCONIA DISTANTI *Boulenger*.

Worm Snake. Wurm Slang.

	<i>District.</i>	<i>Date.</i>	<i>Donor.</i>
P. 1	Pretoria	1897	Mara
2	Pretoria	1897	
3	Pretoria	1897	Berk
4	Modderfontein	1907	Haagner
5	Pretoria	1907	Kretzma
A. 6	M'moouve, 42 miles north of Serowe	1903	Schönland

GLAUCONIA NIGRICANS (*Schlegel*).

Black Worm Snake. Zwarte Wurm Slang.

P. 1, 2, 3	Shilowane, Zoutpans- berg		Junod
A. 4	Assegai River	1896	Street
5	Grahamstown Flats	1894	Pym
6	Port Alfred	1898	Pym
7 to 14	No records (C.C.)		

GLAUCONIA CONJUNTA (*Jan.*)

P. 1	Bandolierkop, Zout- pansberg	1906	Gough
2	Letaba	1905	Swierstra
3 to 5	O.R.C.		
B. 6 to 11	No records (O.R.C.)		

BOIDÆ.

PYTHON SEBÆ *Gmelin*.

Python. Reuzen Slang.

(Commonly miscalled Boa Constrictor by the Colonists.)

P. 1	No history		(Skin in alcohol)
2	Rustenburg	1907	Dyer (mounted)
3	Rustenburg	1907	Dyer (skin in alcohol)
4	Nelspruit	1907	Wilhelm (skull)
5	Nelspruit	1907	Wilhelm
6	Eureka, Barberton	1907	Brown
7	Louw's Creek	1907	Dreyer

COLUBRIDÆ.

COLUBRINÆ.

ABLABOPHIS RUFULUS (*Lichtenstein*).*Water Snake. Water Slang.*

	<i>District.</i>	<i>Date.</i>	<i>Donor.</i>
P. 1	Vryheid, Natal	1906	Müller
2	Lydenburg	1896	Krantz
3	Modderfontein	1906	Haagner
4	Modderfontein	1906	Haagner
5	Pretoria	1906	
6, 7	Modderfontein	1906	Haagner
8, 9	Irene	1904	Taylor
10	Cape Colony	1897	Breyer
11	No history (T)		
12	Pretoria		Potgieter
13	Grahamstown	1897	Albany Museum
14	Pretoria	1897	Gunning
15 to 17	Pretoria, no history		
18	Driefontein, near Johannesburg	1907	Parry
19	Boekenhoutkloof, Magaliesberg	1907	Zeiler
A. 20	Grahamstown	1906	Anderson
21	Grahamstown		
22, 23	Western Province		Swinney
24, 25	Pretoria	1907	Transvaal Museum
26	Grahamstown	1883	Abbot
27	Brakkloof, Grahamstown	1900	White
28	Grahamstown	1892	Hopley
29 to 35	No records, probably Grahamstown, C.C.		
B. 36 to 37	No record (O.R.C.)		

LAMPROPHIS AURORA (*Linné*).*Night Snake. Nacht Slang.*

P. 1, 2, 3	Lydenburg	1896	Krantz
4, 5	Krabbefontein, Zoutpansberg		Breyer
6, 7, 8	Modderfontein	1905	Haagner
9, 10, 11	Grahamstown	1897	Albany Museum
12, 13	Modderfontein	1907	Haagner
A. 14	Grahamstown	1901	Kent
15, 16	Brakkloof, Grahamstown		White
17	Grahamstown	1906	

	<i>District.</i>	<i>Date.</i>	<i>Donor.</i>
18, 19	Grahamstown	1906	Cherry
20	Capetown		Brady
21	Brakkloof, Grahams- town	1900	White
22	No record (Grahams- town).		
B. 23 to 27	No record (O.R.C.)		

LAMPROPHIS INORNATUS *Duméril & Bibron.*

A. 1	Grahamstown	1904	Jupp
2	Grahamstown	1906	Perkins

BOODON INFERNALIS GÜNTHER.

Dark House Snake.

P. 1	Irene		Taylor
2	No history		
A. 3	Grahamstown	1894	Jupp
4	Grahamstown	1903	Jupp
5	No record (C.C.)		

BOODON LINEATUS *Duméril & Bibron.**Brown House Snake.*

P. 1	Vryheid, Natal	1906	Müller
2	Barberton	1906	De Beer
3	Lydenburg	1896	Krantz
4	Krabbefontein, Zout- pansberg		Breyer
5	Modderfontein	1906	Haagner
6, 7, 8	Irene		Taylor
9	Cape Colony	1897	Breyer
10	No history		
11, 12	Pretoria	1906	
13	Selati	1897	Flygare
14	Grahamstown	1897	Albany Museum
15	Pretoria	1907	Van Bergen
16	Zeerust, Marico	1907	Fernleigh
17	Krugersdorp	1907	Holder
A. 18, 19	No records (C.C.)		
20	Grahamstown	1906	Native
21	Grahamstown	1906	Greathead
22	No record (C.C.)		
23	Grahamstown	1906	O'Connor
B. 24 to 40	No record (O.R.C.)		

LYCOPHIDIUM CAPENSE (*Smith*).*Spotted Snake.*

	<i>District.</i>	<i>Date.</i>	<i>Donor.</i>
P. 1	Lydenburg	1896	Kranz
2, 3	No history		
4	Elim Hospital, Zoutpansberg	1906	Borle
5	Krabbefontein		Breyer
6	Pretoria	1907	Gunning
7	Pretoria	1907	Smith
A. 8	Grahamstown	1903	
9	Palapye Rd., Kalahari		Blackbeard
10	Grahamstown	1906	Wood
11	Grahamstown	1906	Shaw
12	Grahamstown	1906	Sterley
13, 14	Grahamstown		
15	Brakkloof, Grahamstown	1896	White
16	Grahamstown		

SIMOCEPHALUS CAPENSIS (*Smith*).*Three-cornered Snake. Vijlslang.*

P. 1	No record
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SIMOCEPHALUS NYASSÆ (*Günther*).*Northern Three-cornered Snake. Noordelijke Vijlslang.*

P. 1	No record
2	Leydsdorp 1907 Copland

PSEUDASPIS CANA (*Linné*).*Mole Snake. Molslang.*

P. 1, 2, 3	Vryheid, Natal	1906	Müller
4	Shilowane, Zoutpansberg	1904-5	Junod
5	Irene	1905	Taylor
6	Selati	1896	Flygare
7	No history		
8	Fountaingrove, Pretoria	1896	Malherbe
P. 9	Olivenhouts Poort, near Johannesburg	1907	Forrest
10, 11	Modderfontein	1907	Haagner
12	Vryheid, Natal	1906	Müller
13	Rustfontein, Bethal	1907	Macpherson
14	Pinedene, Pretoria District	1907	Carlisle
15	Six Mile Spruit, Pretoria	1907	Smith
A. 16	Grahamstown		Drennan

	<i>District.</i>	<i>Date.</i>	<i>Donor.</i>
17, 18	Brakkloof, Grahams-town	1906	White
19	Port Elizabeth	1894	Reeve
20	Nash Vale Barroe St.	1893	
21 to 22	M'moouve, 42 miles north of Serowe	1903	Blackbeard
23 to 27	No records (C.C.)		
B. 28	No record (O.R.C.)		

CHLOROPHIS HOPLOGASTER (*Günther*).

Green Snake. Groen Slang.

P. 1	Vryheid, Natal	1906	Müller
2, 3	Lydenburg	1896	Krantz
4	Cape Colony	1897	Breyer
5	Pretoria	1896	Gunning
6, 7	No history		
8	Pretoria	1898	Barrett
9	Pretoria?	1897	Hollenbach
10	Pretoria	1896	
11, 12	No history		

CHLOROPHIS NATALENSIS (*Smith*).

Eastern Green Snake. Natalische Groene Slang.

P. 1	Vryheid, Natal	1906	Müller
2, 3, 4	Selati, Zoutpansberg District	1897	Flygare
5	Pretoria	1896	Breyer
6	Henops River, Pretoria	1907	
A. 7	No record (C.C.)		

PHILOTHAMNUS SEMIVARIEGATUS (*Smith*).

Bush Snake. Bosch Slang.

P. 1	Vryheid, Natal	1906	Müller
2	Pretoria District	1897	Bonker
3	No history		
4	Shilowane, Zoutpansberg District	1904-5	Junod
5	Malalane	1907	Bolton
A. 6	Serowe	1906	Blackbeard
7	Grahamstown	1903	
8	No record (C.C.)		

PROSYMNA SUNDEVALLI (*Smith*).

"Coppery Snake."

P. 1, 2	Krabbefontein, Zoutpansberg District		Breyer
A. 3	Brakkloof, Grahams-town	1896	White
B. 4, 5	No record (O.R.C.)		

HOMALOSOMA LUTRIX (*Linneé*).*Smooth-bellied Snake. Gladbuik Slang.*

	<i>District.</i>	<i>Date.</i>	<i>Donor.</i>
P. 1, 2	Grahamstown	1897	Albany Museum
3, 4	Cape Colony	1897	Breyer
5	No history	(T)	
6	Lydenburg	1896	Kranz
7	Irene	1905	Taylor
8, 9	Tokai, Cape Colony	1902	Taylor
10, 11	Cape Colony	1897	Breyer
12	Pretoria	1897	
A. 13	Albany		
14	Grahamstown		
15 to 25	No record (C.C.)		
B. 26 to 28	No record (O.R.C.)		

HOMALOSOMA SHIRANUM *Boulenger*.

P. 1	Tokai, Cape Colony	1897	Taylor
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This specimen was in the same bottle as Nos. 8 and 9 of *H. lutrix* and was probably caught at the same place, but it differs so much from *H. lutrix* that I have great hesitation in ascribing it to that species: at the same time it seems most to resemble *H. Shiranum* Boulenger, although differing in some minor respects.

The rostral is broader than deep, just visible from above: suture between the internasals longer than that between the præfrontals. Frontal once and a half as long as broad, longer than its distance to the end of the snout, shorter than the parietals, twice as broad as the supraocular.

Parietals separated by two small scales. Nostril in the anterior half of the nasal, no loreal, nasal in contact with the præocular: two postoculars.

Six upper labials, third and fourth entering the eye. Temporals, right side 1 and 3, left side 1 and 2. Two pairs of chin-shields, the anterior in contact with three labials. Scales in 15 rows. Ventrals 131, anal entire, subcaudals 31. Uniform olive-brown above, belly yellowish white, outer ends of ventrals and outer row of scales slaty grey, edged with brown.

It will be seen that it differs from *H. lutrix* in the nasal being in contact with the præocular, and in the proportionate lengths of the suture between the internasals and the præfrontals.

This proportion, however, does not reach that of *H. shiranum* Boulenger (3 to 1) being at the most 2 to 1, the right internasal (the right præfrontal and the frontal being missing in the specimen, make accurate measurements rather difficult).

It differs from *H. shiranum* in having two postoculars instead of only one, a trifling difference considering the great tendency of the postoculars of most species of snakes to vary in numbers.

In coloration it agrees with *H. shiranum* fairly closely. Had the specimen been secured from the North of the Transvaal, there would have been little need of hesitation in recording it as *Homalosoma shiranum* Boulenger, it is only necessary because it appears to have been caught in Cape Colony.

RACHIODONTINÆ.

DASYPELTIS SCABRA (*Linneé*).

Egg-Eating Snake. Eier Vreter.

(Scaled Snake in South Africa.)

	<i>District.</i>	<i>Date.</i>	<i>Donor.</i>
P. 1, 2, 3, 4	No history		
5	Modderfontein	1906	Haagner
6, 7, 8	Shilowane, Zoutpans- berg District	1904-5	Junod
9, 10	Krabbefontein, Zout- pansberg District		Breyer
11, 12	Modderfontein	1906	Haagner
13, 14	Irene	1905	Taylor
15	Cape Flats	1902	Taylor
16	Selati, Zoutpansberg District	1897	Flygare
17	Louw's Creek	1907	Gough
18	Vryheid, Natal	1906	Müller (var palmarum)
19, 20, 21	No history		
A. 22	M'moouve 42 miles north of Serowe	1903	Schönland
23	Serowe	1906	Blackbeard
24, 25	Grahamstown	1896	Henshman
26	Grahamstown	1905	Jupp
27, 28, 29	No record (C.C.)		
B. 30, 31, 32	No record (O.R.C.)		

DIPSADOMORPHINÆ.

TARBOPHIS SEMIANNULATUS (*Smith*).

Tiger Snake. Tijger Slang.

P. 1	Pretoria	1906	Gough
2	Barberton	1906	De Beer
3	Barberton	1897	
4, 5	Shilowane, Zoutpans- berg District	1904-5	Junod
6	Pretoria	1897	Barrett

	<i>District.</i>	<i>Date.</i>	<i>Donor.</i>
7	Krabbefontein, Zoutpansberg District		Breyer
8	Pretoria	1896	
9	Barberton	1907	De Beer
10	Pretoria	1907	
11	Boekenhoutkloof, Magaliesberg	1907	Zeiler
12	Onderstepoort	1907	Herrington
13	Leydsdorp	1907	Copland
14	Pretoria	1907	
15, 16	Serowe	1906	Blackbeard
17	Barberton	1898	Lawrence
18	No record (? T)		

LEPTODIRA HOTAMBŒIA (*Laurenti*).*Red-lipped Snake or Herald Snake. Roodlip Slang.*

P. 1	Irene	1906	Mansvelt
2	Wonderboom, Pretoria	1906	Adendorff
3	Lydenburg	1896	Kranz
4	Modderfontein	1906	Haagner
5	Lydenburg	1896	Kranz
6	Krabbefontein, Zoutpansberg District		Breyer
7, 8	Modderfontein	1906	Haagner
9	Irene	1905	Taylor
10, 11	Cape Flats	1902	Taylor
12	Cape Colony	1897	Breyer
13	Pretoria	1900	
14, 15, 16	Krabbefontein, Zoutpansberg District		Breyer
17	Selati, Zoutpansberg	1896	Flygare
18	No history		
19	Grahamstown	1897	Albany Museum
20, 21	Selati, Zoutpansberg District	1896	Flygare
22	Pretoria	1897	Amman
23	Middelburg (T.)	1907	Pershouse
24, 25	Pretoria	1907	
26	Pretoria	1907	Swierstra
A. 27	Grahamstown (?)	1887	Fisher
28	Grahamstown	1906	
29	Grahamstown	1906	Norton
30	Grahamstown		
31 to 33	Grahamstown		Morton
34	Grahamstown	1902	Smith
35	Grahamstown	1906	Wellings
36 to 38	No records (C.C.)		
B. 39 to 46	No records (O.R.C.)		

AMPLORHINUS MULTIMACULATUS (*Smith*).

	<i>District.</i>	<i>Date.</i>	<i>Donor.</i>
P. 1	Belfast (T)	1906	Mansvelt
2	No history		
3, 4, 5	Irene	1905	Taylor
B. 6	No record (O.R.C.)		

TRIMERORHINUS RHOMBEATUS (*Linné*).

Schaapstekker. Known to English speaking Colonists only by its Dutch name.

P. 1	Vryheid, Natal	1906	Müller
2	Lydenburg	1896	Krantz
3, 4	Shilowane, Zoutpans- berg District	1904-5	Junod
5, 6	Modderfontein	1906	Haagner
7	No history (T)		
8, 9, 10	Irene	1905	Taylor
11	Tokai, Cape Colony	1902	Taylor
12	Pretoria		
13, 14, 15	Cape Colony	1897	Breyer
16	Volksrust		
17, 18	Grahamstown	1897	Albany Museum
19, 20, 21	Germiston	1907	Wayland
22	Swartkoppies, Pretoria	1907	Smith
23	Modderfontein	1907	Haagner
24	Irene	1907	Gough
25	Krabbefontein		Breyer
A. 26	Grahamstown		
27	Grahamstown		Butler
28	Grahamstown (?)	1888	Brady
29	Grahamstown	1905	Ogilvie
30, 31	Capetown		Brady
32	Brakkloof, Grahams- town	1899	White
33	Brakkloof, Grahams- town	1900	White
34 to 41	No records (C.C.)		
B. 42 to 53	No records (O.R.C.)		

TRIMERORHINUS TRITÆNIATUS (*Günther*).

Striped Schaapstekker. *Gestreepte Schaapstekker.*

P. 1, 2	Lydenburg District	1896	Kranz
3	Selati, Zoutpansberg	1897	Flygare
4	No history		
5	Swartkoppies, Pretoria	1907	
A. 6, 7, 8	Bechuanaland	1896	Harri

PSAMMOPHIS SIBILANS (*Linné*).*Hissing Sand Snake. Zand slang.*

	<i>District.</i>	<i>Date.</i>	<i>Donor.</i>
P. 1	Kaapmuiden	1906	Bolton
2	Louw's Creek	1907	Dreyer
3	Shilowane, Zoutpans- berg District	1904-5	Junod
4	Pretoria	1900	
5	Selati, Zoutpansberg District	1897	Flygare
A. 6	M'moouve, 42 miles north of Serowe	1903	Schönland
7	Serowe	1906	Blackbeard
8	No record (T ?)		
B. 9, 10	No record (O.R.C. ?)		

PSAMMOPHIS FURCATUS (*Peters*).*Forked Sand Snake. Gevorkte Zandslang.*

P. 1	Pretoria	1896	Breyer
2	Pretoria	1906	
3	Pretoria	1907	
4	Daspoort, Pretoria	1907	Theiler
B. 5 to 8	No records (O.R.C.)		

PSAMMOPHIS LEIGHTONI *Boulenger*.*Southern Sand Snake. Zuidelijke Zandslang.*

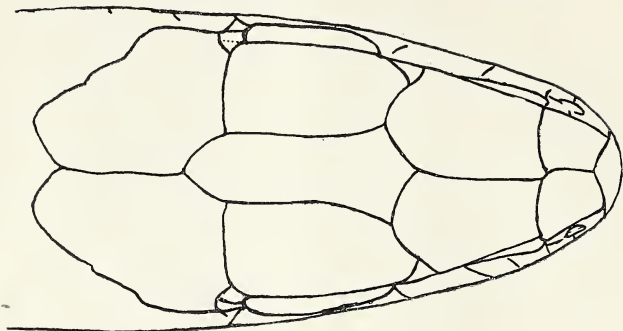
A. 1	Capetown		Brady
2	No records (C.C.)		

PSAMMOPHIS BREVIROSTRIS *Peters*.*Shortsnouted Sand Snake. Kortsnoet Zandslang.*

P. 1	Pretoria	1906	
2	Wonderboom		Adendorff
3	Pretoria		Barrett

PSAMMOPHIS CRUCIFER *Boie*.*Grass Snake, Crossed Snake. Gras Slang.*

P. 1, 2	Vryheid, Natal	1902	Müller
3	Tokai, Capetown	1905	Taylor
4, 5	Irene	1905	Taylor
6	Cape Colony	1897	Breyer
7	Lydenburg	1907	Jansen
8	Barberton	1907	
A. 9	Brakkloof, Grahams- town	1906	White
10	Grahamstown		Butler
11, 12	Capetown		Brady
13	Grahamstown	1903	Barnes
14 to 25	No records (C.C.)		
B. 26	No record (O.R.C.)		

PSAMMOPHIS THOMASI *Gough.*

Snout once and two-thirds as long as the eye. Rostral broader than deep. Internasals less than half as long as the præfrontals: frontal more than twice as long as broad (9.6 mm. long, 4 mm. broad in front, but only 2.6 in the middle); frontal longer than its distance to the end of the snout, and narrower in the middle than the supraocular (which measures 3.6 mm.).

Parietals shorter than the frontal (measuring 8.7 mm.). Nostril between three nasals, a large anterior and two small superimposed posterior. Loreal twice and a half as long as broad, separated from the internasals. One large præocular, widely separated from the frontal. Suture between præfrontal and supraocular 1.5 mm. long. The præfrontal is in contact with the loreal supraocular, and upper labials 3 and 4. Two postoculars.

Temporals, 1+1 or 2+1 (in the type right side 1+1, left side 2+1). A large shield behind and outside each of the parietals. Eight upper labials, fourth and fifth entering the eye, sixth largest. Two pairs of equal chin-shields. A long suture between the first pair of lower labials behind the chin-shields (2.5 mm.), four lower labials in contact with the anterior chinshields. Scales oblique, the outer rows much broader than the inner ones, in 17 rows.

Scales on the upper surface of the tail larger than the corresponding ones on the body. Ventrals 167. Anal divided. Subcaudals in 92 pairs.

Length of type specimen 117 cm., of which 33.5 belong to the tail.

Olive brown above, becoming gradually much lighter on the sides and below, where the brown tone becomes more bluish.

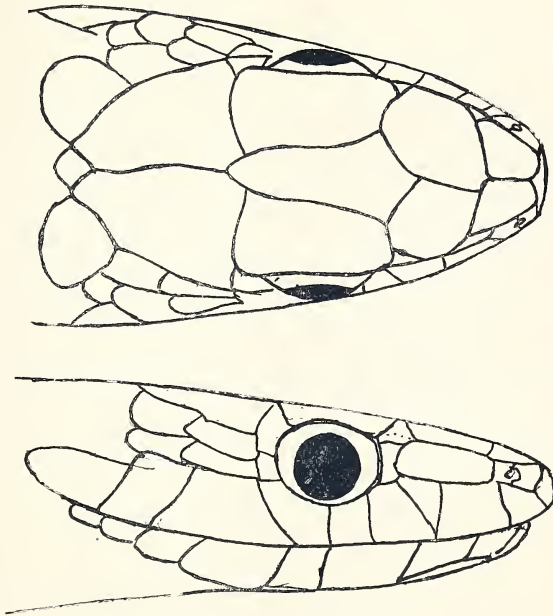
The middle of the ventrals yellowish, especially in the distal two-thirds of the body. Sides of the scales with black

edges, on the outmost row the black edging is reduced to small spots on the ventral side, or even quite absent. The under side of the body finely speckled with black.

Head brown with a reddish tinge, pink behind the angle of the jaws. Parietals and postparietals with black spots. Upper lip yellow, the upper half of each scale being brown like the rest of the head, the two colours separated by a broken dark line, the lower half with large, dark-edged brown marks. A faint yellow dark-edged line on the canthus rostralis. Under-lip and chin, and the first few ventrals yellowish with more or less rounded grey markings.

P. 1 Salisbury, Rhodesia 1907 Thomas (type)

PSAMMOPHIS TRANSVAALIENSIS. Gough.



Snout once and two-thirds as long as the eye. Rostral much broader than deep, visible from above. Nostril between two shields: internasals two-thirds as long as the prefrontals. Frontal more than twice as long as broad, in the middle two-thirds the width of the supraocular, much longer than its distance to the end of the snout, somewhat longer than the parietals: loreal about twice as long as deep; two preoculars, the upper widely separated from the frontal; two postoculars: temporals 2+2: eight upper labials, third, fourth and fifth entering the eye: four lower labials in contact with the anterior chin-shields, which are shorter, but broader than the postocular.

Scales in 17 rows. Ventrals 171. Anal divided, preceded by a single half scale. Subcaudals ? The end of the tail had been lost during life, and a terminal conical scale regenerated, only 9 pairs of subcaudals remaining.

The seven middle rows of scales dark brown, tipped or edged with black. The top third of the row of scales fifth from middle of back, black; lower two-thirds of fifth row and upper two-thirds of sixth row cream coloured; outer third of this row black. The seventh and eighth rows dark brown, almost black at the tips. Upper half of outer row black, lower cream.

A black line along each side of the ventrals, the space between the black lines yellow. Lips and chin cream with black dots and markings, a black line runs along the upper edge of the labials across the rostral. Upper surface of the head light brown, with darker black edged markings, a lighter transverse band on the nape. The yellow lateral stripes originate at a short distance from the head, the portion of the neck anterior to them with indistinct cross bars.

	<i>District.</i>	<i>Date.</i>	<i>Donor.</i>
P. 1	Louw's Creek	1907	Dreyer (type).

THELTORNIS KIRTLANDI. (*Hallowell*).

Bird Snake. Vogelereter.

P. 1	Dwars River, Zoutpansberg District	1906	Gough
2	Bandolierkop, Zoutpansberg District	1906	Setterfield
3	Zoutpansberg	1907	Pienaar
4, 5, 6	No history		
7	Louw's Creek	1907	Gough
A. 8	M'moouve, 42 miles north of Serowe	1903	Schönland

DISPHOLIDUS TYPUS (*Smith*).

Tree Snake. Boom Slang.

(Usually called Green Mamba in the Transvaal, where it is considered by most people to be a poisonous snake.)

P. 1	Pretoria	1897	Deary
2	Pienaaers River	1900	Jutrzenka
3, 4	Vryheid, Natal	1906	
5, 6	Lydenburg District	1896	Krantz
7	Shilowane, Zoutpansberg District	1904-5	Junod
8	Cape Flats	1903	Taylor
9	Selati, Zoutpansberg District	1896	Flygare

	<i>District.</i>	<i>Date.</i>	<i>Donor.</i>
10	Grahamstown	1897	Albany Museum
11	Wolhuterskop	1907	Maynard
12	Salisbury, Rhodesia	1907	Thomas
A. 13	Brakkloof, Grahams- town	1906	White
14	Grahamstown	1906	O'Connor
15	Brakkloof, Grahams- town	1891	White
16	No records (C.C.)		

APARALLACTUS CAPENSIS (*Smith*).*Black-headed Snake. Zwartkop Slang.*

P. 1	Selati, Zoutpansberg District	1896	Flygare
2	Lydenburg District	1896	Krantz
3, 4	Modderfontein	1906	Haagner
5	Shilowane, Zoutpans- berg District	1904-5	Junod
6, 7	Krabbefontein, Zout- pansberg District		Breyer
8 to 12	Irene	1905	Taylor
13	No history		
14	Modderfontein	1907	Haagner
15, 16	Kraalkop, Bank	1907	Cable
17	Salisbury, Rhodesia	1907	Thomas
B. 18	No record (O.R.C.)		

HYDROPHINÆ.

HYDRUS PLATURUS (*Linné*).*Sea Snake.*

P. 1	Simons Bay, Cape Colony	1903	Taylor
2	South Seas	1897	Museum Gode- ffroy
A. 3	Olifants Hoek Coast		
4	Caxton Farm, Bathurst District	1903	Webb

ELAPINÆ.

ELAPECHIS GUENTHERI *Bocage*.*Northern Garter Snake.*

P. 1, 2	Lydenburg District	1896	Krantz
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Specimen 1 is entirely black above, with only a few white lines formed by spots, on the posterior part of the body; Specimen 2 is semiannulate black and white.

ELAPECHIS SUNDEVALLI (*Smith*).*Sundevall's Garter Snake.*

	<i>District.</i>	<i>Date.</i>	<i>Donor.</i>
P. 1	North Natal	1900	Tressling
2	No history		
3	O.R.C.		
4	De Deur, Evaton	1907	Koelkenbek
B. 5 to 8	No history, O.R.C.,		Young

As this snake has long only been known in very few specimens, the following data concerning the two largest specimens in the Pretoria Museum will be of interest.

The proportion of the portion of the rostral visible from above to the distance of the rostral from the frontal, seems to be an inconsistent character, in No. 1 it is only equal to three-fourths the distance from the frontal in No. 2 it actually exceeds the distance (No. 1, 2·3 : 3 mm., No. 2, 2·4 : 2 mm., suture between the internasals No. 1, 1 mm., No. 2, 0·6 mm. ; suture between the præfrontals No. 1, 2·6 mm., No. 2, 1·6. Length of frontal No. 1, 5·3 mm., No. 2, 5·4 mm. ; breadth of frontal No. 1, 4·2 mm., No. 2, 4·1 mm. In No. 1 the length of the frontal is a trifle shorter, in No. 2 it is a little longer than its distance from the end of the snout. Suture between the parietals No. 1, 5 mm., No. 2, 3·8. Posterior nasal of both in contact with the single præocular, two postoculars ; temporals No. 1, right side 1 and 2, left side 1 and 1 and 2, No. 2 both sides 1 and 2. Seven upper labials, third and fourth entering the eye, sixth largest.

First pair of lower labials meeting behind the symphysial, two pairs of chinshields, anterior slightly larger than the posterior and in contact with three lower labials. Scales in 13 rows.

Ventrals No. 1, 172, No. 2, 165, anal entire, subcaudals No. 1, 23, No. 2, 21. No. 1 has 28 chocolate-brown half rings above, the anterior of which extend longitudinally over 5 or 6 scales, the posterior over 4 or 5 scales, between those dark half rings are lighter brown ones, edged in front and behind by a white or yellowish line one scale wide. The dark colour of the most anterior ring is produced Λ shaped on the nape and extends to the front of the frontal. Upper lip and lower parts light. No. 2 has faded very badly, but traces of the chevron shaped mark on the nape can be made out, the other markings have been nearly entirely obliterated.

No. 1 was caught in North Natal by Mr. Tressling when on commando in his tent under his bed, it was carried about by him during part of the campaign in spirits, until he found an opportunity to send it to Pretoria,

NAIA HAIE (*Linné*).*Egyptian Cobra or Banded Cobra. Egyptische Cobra.*

	<i>District.</i>	<i>Date.</i>	<i>Donor.</i>
P. 1	Pretoria	1896	Pistorius
2	Pretoria	1906	
3	Warmbaths	1907	Bibbing
4	Hunyani, Rhodesia	1907	Thomas
5, 6, 7	No history		
8	Elandsdraal, Pienaars- river	1907	Fuchs
9	Wonderboom, Pretoria	1907	Theiler
10	Daspoort, Pretoria	1907	Smith
B. 11	No record (O.R.C.)		

Specimens 3 and 4 both belong to an interesting colour variety, which is evidently very widely distributed, as it also occurs near Pretoria.

They are both full grown specimens, measuring 178 cm. and 183 cm. respectively. The head, body and tail of both specimens are black, above and below, interrupted, however, in No. 3 by 11, and in No. 4 by 10 broad yellow or brown annuli, embracing up to 10 subsequent rings of scales. The annuli are narrowest on neck and tail. As they do not differ in any way in their lepidosis from normal specimens of *Naisia haie*, they must be ascribed to that species in spite of their large size and abnormal markings. (Peter's description of *Naisia haie* var *annulifera* was not accessible, so I have not been able to compare it with that variety.)

According to Mr. Thomas, these full-grown banded Cobras feed on smaller snakes.

NAIA FLAVA (*Merrem*).*Yellow or Cape Cobra. Geelslang, Koper Kapel.*

	<i>District.</i>	<i>Date.</i>	<i>Donor.</i>
P. 1, 2	Tokai, Cape Colony	1902	Taylor
3	No history		
A. 4	Graaf Reinet		Hobson
B. 5 to 8	No records (O.R.C.)		

NAIA NIGRICOLLIS (*Reinhardt*).*Black-necked Cobra, often miscalled Ringhals.*

P. 1	Vissers Hoek, Pretoria		
	District	1906	Viljoen
2	Shilowane, Zoutpans- berg District	1904-5	Junod
3, 4, 5	No history		
A. 6	Palapye Road, Kala- hari Desert		Blackbeard

SEPEDON HÆMACHATES (*Lacépède*).*Ringhals.*

	<i>District.</i>	<i>Date.</i>	<i>Donor.</i>
P. 1, 2	Vryheid, Natal	1906	Müller
3	Grahamstown	1897	Albany Museum
4, 5	Irene	1905	Taylor
6	Fountain Grove, Pretoria	1898	Jutrzenka
7	Ventersdorp	1906	Cable
8	Germiston	1907	Wayland
9, 10, 11	Vryheid, Natal	1906	Müller
12	Klip River	1907	Allison
13	Val Station, Standerton	1907	Hutton
A. 14, 15	Grahamstown	1906	Cherry
16	Grahamstown	1906	Wellings
17	Grahamstown	1888	
18, 19	No records (C.C.)		
B. 20 to 27	No records (O.R.C.)		

ASPIDELAPS SCUTATUS (*Smith*).*Shield Snake.*

P. 1	Selati, Zoutpansberg District	1896	Flygare
2, 3, 4	No history		
5	Palla Road	1907	Hodson

ASPIDELAPS LUBRICUS (*Laurenti*).*Slender Shield Snake.*

P. 1	O.R.C.		
B. 2, 3	No records (O.R.C.)		

HOMORELAPS LACTEUS (*Linne*).*Garter Snake. Kouseband Slang.*

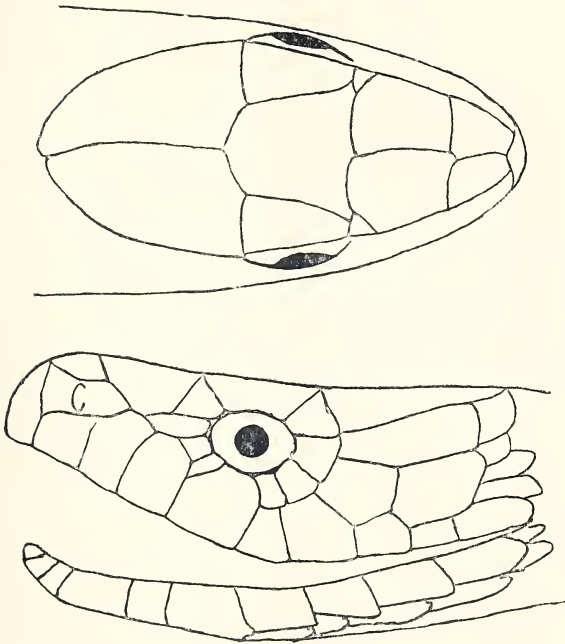
P. 1	Krabbefontein, Zoutpansberg District		Breyer
2, 3	Grahamstown	1897	Albany Museum
A. 4	Grahamstown		Cogan
5, 6	Grahamstown		
7	Middleton (C.C.)	1906	Whitehead
8	Riebeck East	1902	Smith
9	Tootabi	1904	Sangster
10	Brakkloof, Grahamstown	1906	White
11	Brakkloof, Grahamstown	1907	White
12, 13, 14	Grahamstown		
15 to 56	Grahamstown (?) No records		
B. 57 to 60	No records (O.R.C.)		

HOMORELAPS DORSALIS *Smith.**Striped Garter Snake.*

	<i>District.</i>	<i>Date.</i>	<i>Donor.</i>
P. 1	Pretoria	1897	
2	Vryheid	1907	
3	No record		
B. 5	Bloemfontein		Albrecht
6 to 9	No record (O.R.C.)		

DENDRASPIS ANGUSTICEPS (*Smith.*)*Tree Cobra. Mamba.*

P. 1, 2	No history		
3	Nelspruit	1907	Wilhelm
4	Louw's Creek	1907	Dreyer

DENDRASPIS MAMBA *Gough.*

Rostral once and one-third broader than deep, prefrontals twice as long as the internasals, frontal as long as broad, shorter than its distance from the end of the snout, shorter than the parietals, forming a short suture with the upper præocular: three præoculars, the upper broadest, the middle one nearly three times as long as broad, simulating a loreal, just separated from the posterior nasal, the lowest smallest, with a small subocular below it wedged in between the fourth and fifth upper labials: three postoculars, upper largest, a subocular, below and in front of the lowest postocular, in contact with the fourth, fifth and sixth upper

labials; a large upper temporal, followed by two or three enlarged scales bordering the parietal, two large lower temporals, together as long as the upper temporal, followed by two superimposed enlarged scales; the lower margin of the anterior lower temporal is wedged in between the sixth and seventh upper labials; nine upper labials, fourth entering the eye, second twice as deep as the first, just in contact with the prefrontal; three lower labials in contact with the anterior chin-shields which are almost twice as long as the posterior, the anterior chin-shields are separated from each other by very minute scales, the posterior ones by small scales. Scales in 25 rows, 29 around the neck, ventrals 269, anal divided, subcaudals 116 pairs. Dark olive green above, blueish green below, skin between the scales very dark purple.

	<i>District.</i>	<i>Date.</i>	<i>Donor.</i>
P. 1	White River Settlement	1907	Cooke (type.)

VIPERIDÆ.

CAUSUS RHOMBEATUS (*Lichtenstein*).*Night Adder. Nacht Adder.*

P. 1	Pretoria	1906	Aspinall
2	Vryheid, Natal	1906	Müller
3, 4	Haenertsburg, Zoutpansberg District	1906	Gough
5	Pretoria	1897	Boh
6	Pretoria	1896	Breyer
7	Silverton	1905	Visser
8	Grahamstown	1897	Albany Museum
9, 10	Lydenburg District	1896	Krantz
11, 12	Fountain Grove, Pretoria	1901	Jutrzenka
13	Pretoria	1906	
14 to 17	Irene	1905	Taylor
18, 19	Cape Colony	1897	Breyer
20	Pretoria	1900	
21	Pretoria	1897	Boh
22	Pretoria	1897	
23 to 26	No history		
27	Pretoria	1907	
28	Boekenhoutkloof, Magaliesberg	1907	Zeiler
29	Frederikstad	1907	Cable
30	Salisbury, Rhodesia	1907	Thomas
A. 31	Grahamstown	1906	
32	Grahamstown	1907	Native
33, 34	Tootabi	1905	Sangster
35 to 37	No records (C.C.)		

CAUSUS DEFILIPPI *Jan.**Snouted Night Adder.*

	<i>District.</i>	<i>Date.</i>	<i>Donor.</i>
P. 1	Louw's Creek, Barber- ton District	1906	Dryer
2	Shilowane, Zoutpans- berg District	1904-5	Junod
3	Selati, Zoutpansberg District	1896	Flygare
4	Elim Hospital, Zout- pansberg District	1906	Borle

BITIS ARIETANS (*Merrem*).*Puff Adder. Pof Adder.*

P. 1 to 6	Vryheid, Natal	1906	Müller
7	Shilowane, Zoutpans- berg District	1904-5	Junod
8	Elim Hospital, Zout- pansberg District	1906	Borle
9	Tokai, Cape Colony	1902	Taylor
10	Cape Flats	1903	Taylor
11 to 54	Forty-four embryos taken from a single female: Pietersburg, Zoutpansberg Dist.	1906	Bolton
55	Vryheid	1906	Müller
56	Salisbury, Rhodesia	1907	Thomas
A. 57	Grahamstown	1906	Duerden
58	Serowe	1906	Blackbeard
59	No record (C.C.)		
B. 60 to 63	No records (O.R.C.)		

BITIS ATROPOS (*Linné*).*Berg Adder.*

P. 1	Grahamstown	1897	Albany Museum
2	Addo, Albany		Potgieter
3, 4	No records (C.C.)		

BITIS CORNUTA (*Daudin*).*Hornsman.*

P. 1, 2	Cape Flats	1903	Taylor
A. 3	Capetown		Brady

BITIS CAUDALIS (*Smith*).*Horned Puff Adder.*

P. 1, 2	Bandolierkop, Zout- pansberg	1906	Gough
A. 3, 4	Serowe	1904	Blackbeard
5	M'moouve, 42 miles north of Serowe	1903	Schönland

	<i>District.</i>	<i>Date.</i>	<i>Donor.</i>
6	Serowe		Blackbeard
7			Hobson
8 to 11	No records (C.C. ?)		
	<i>BITIS INORNATA (Smith).</i>		
	<i>Cape Puff Adder.</i>		
A. 1	Brakkloof, Grahams- town	1892	White
	<i>BITIS PERINGUEYI Boulenger.</i>		
	<i>Peringuey's Puff Adder.</i>		
A. 1	No records (C.C.)		
	<i>ATRACTASPIS BIBRONI Smith.</i>		
	<i>Oviparous Adder.</i>		
P.	Shilowane, Zoutpans- berg District	1904-5	Junod
	<i>ATRACTASPIS DUERDENI Gough.</i>		

Snout prominent, subcuneiform, rostral with a rounded horizontal edge; the portion visible from above a little longer than its distance from the frontal. Internasals and præfrontals much broader than long. Suture between the internasals shorter than that between the præfrontals.

Frontal broader than long, shield shaped, longer than its distance from the end to the snout. Longer than the parietals an azygous enlarged shield behind the parietals.

One præ- and one post-ocular: a large temporal wedged in between the fourth and fifth upper labials; five upper labials, first very small, third and fourth entering the eye, fourth largest.

Posterior nasal much larger than the anterior.

First lower labial in contact with its fellow behind the symphysal; three lower labials in contact with the chin-shields, third very large, corresponding with the second, third and fourth labials.

Two pairs of chin-shields, first pair very large and broad, second pair two-thirds the length of the first and much narrower, wedged in between the first chin-shield and the labial, their posterior tips separated by three scales, of which the middle one is slightly enlarged.

Scales in 21 rows. Ventrals 199. Anal entire. Subcaudals 22: all except the first entire.

Cream coloured above and below.

	<i>District.</i>	<i>Date.</i>	<i>Donor.</i>
A. 1	Serowe	1904	Blackbeard (type)

Key to the South African Genera and Species of Snakes.

- | | | |
|-----|--|--|
| 1. | Eyes rudimentary 2 | |
| | Eyes well developed 15 | |
| 2. | At least eighteen scales round the body. | |
| | Typhlops 3 | |
| | Only fourteen scales round the body. | |
| | Glaucônia 12 | |
| 3. | Nostril between two nasals 4 | |
| | Nostril semi-divided 5 | |
| 4. | Snout rounded, nostrils lateral (20 scales round the body, diameter of the body contained 35-55 times in total length). | |
| | Typhlops braminus (<i>Daud.</i>) | |
| | Snout with obtusely angular horizontal edge, nostrils inferior: (24 scales round the body, diameter of body contained 30 times in total length). | |
| | Typhlops mossambicus (<i>Peters</i>). | |
| 5. | Snout with angular horizontal edge 6 | |
| | Snout rounded, no angular horizontal edge: (22 scales round the body, diameter of body contained 42 times to 45 times in total length). | |
| | Typhlops verticalis (<i>Smith</i>). | |
| 6. | The cleft in the nasal proceeds from the first labial 7 | |
| | The cleft in the nasal proceeds from the lower lateral border of the rostral: (30-32 scales round the body, diameter of the body contained 24 times in the total length). | |
| | Typhlops anchietae <i>Bocage</i> . | |
| 7. | The rostral extends to the level of the eyes 8 | |
| | The rostral does not extend to the level of the eyes; (Snout strongly hooked with sharp cutting edge, 26 scales around the body, diameter of the body contained 45 times in the total length). | |
| | Typhlops schinzi <i>Boettger</i> . | |
| 8. | Edge of snout sharply angular 10 | |
| | Edge of snout obtusely angular 9 | |
| 9. | Præocular in contact with the second and third labials: (24 to 30 scales round the middle of the body, 26 to 32 anteriorly, diameter of body 21 to 32 times in total length). | |
| | Typhlops punctatus (<i>Leach</i>). | |
| | Præocular in contact with the second labial: (30 to 32 scales round the middle of the body 32 to 34 anteriorly, diameter of body 28 to 36 times in total length). | |
| | Typhlops bibroni (<i>Smith</i>). | |
| 10. | The portion of the rostral visible from below broader than long 11 | |
| | The portion of the rostral visible from below as broad as long: (30 to 36 scales round the body, diameter of the body contained 25 to 30 times in the total length). | |
| | Typhlops mucroso (<i>Peters</i>). | |
| 11. | 40 to 42 scales round the middle of the body, diameter of body contained 25 to 30 times in the total length. | |
| | Typhlops schlegeli <i>Bianconi</i> . | |
| | 28 to 30 scales round the middle of the body, diameter of body contained 35 to 50 times in total length. | |
| | Typhlops delalandi <i>Schlegel</i> . | |
| 12. | Snout hooked, the præoral portion concave inferiorly, rostral extending far beyond the posterior border of the eye. | |
| | Glaucônia distanti <i>Boulenger</i> . | |
| | Snout not hooked, rostral extending at the most only slightly beyond the posterior border of the eye 13 | |

13.	Rostral at least 3 times as broad as the nasal.	<i>Glaucania scutifrons (Peters).</i>	
	Rostral less than twice as broad as the nasal	...	14
14.	Rostral extending to the level of the anterior border of the eyes, as broad as, or little broader than the nasal.	<i>Glaucania nigricans (Schlegel).</i>	
	Rostral extending to the posterior border of the eyes, broader than the nasal.	<i>Glaucania conjuncta (Jan).</i>	
15.	Labials without pits	...	16
	The two anterior labials (upper) deeply pitted, 4 or 5 of the posterior lower labials feebly pitted.	<i>Python sebæ (Gmelin).</i>	
16.	Head covered with symmetrical shields	...	17
	Head covered with scales similar to those on the body	...	89
17.	Ventrals differentiated and enlarged	...	18
	Ventrals not differentiated from the other scales.	<i>Hydrus platurus L.</i>	
18.	Ventrals with a lateral keel	...	19
	Ventrals rounded	...	26
19.	Middle row of scales enlarged and bicarinate.		
	<i>Simocephalus</i>	...	20
	Middle row of scales not enlarged and bicarinate	...	21
20.	Two postoculars.	<i>Simocephalus capensis (Smith).</i>	
	One postocular.	<i>Simocephalus nyassæ (Guenther).</i>	
21.	Subcaudals rounded	...	22
	Subcaudals keeled.	<i>Philothamnus semivariegatus (Smith).</i>	
22.	Scales smooth in 15 or 17 rows	...	23
	Scales keeled, in 19 or 21 rows	...	52
23.	Pupil vertical, scales in 17 rows.	<i>Lycodon aulicus (L).</i>	
	Pupil round, scales in 15 rows.		
	<i>Chlorophis</i>	...	24
24.	Three labials enter the eye.	<i>Chlorophis irregularis (Leach).</i>	
	Two labials enter the eye...	...	25
25.	Ventrals not keeled.	<i>Chlorophis hoplogaster (Guenther).</i>	
	Ventrals keeled.	<i>Chlorophis natalensis (Smith).</i>	
26.	Subcaudals in two rows	...	27
	Subcaudals single	...	67
27.	Loreal present	...	28
	No loreal	...	70
28.	Snout with an angular horizontal edge.		
	<i>Prosynma</i>	...	29
	Snout has no angular horizontal edge	...	30
29.	Two internasals.	<i>Prosynma sundevalli (Smith).</i>	
	One internasal.	<i>Prosynma frontalis (Peters).</i>	
30.	Anal entire	...	31
	Anal divided	...	48
31.	Pupil round	...	43
	Pupil vertical	...	32
32.	Scales in 23 or more rows	...	33
	Scales in less than 23 rows	...	40
33.	Scales with apical pits	...	34
	Scales without apical pits	...	37

34.	Præocular not extending to the upper surface of the head.						
	Præocular extending to the upper surface of the head	...	...	...	...	...	35
35.	Scales in 23 rows.						
	Scales in 25 to 31 rows	...	...	...	...	...	36
36.	Two pairs of chin-shields in contact on the median line.						
	Only one pair of chin-shields in contact on the median line.						
37.	A single pair of chin-shields.	Lamprophis	fiskei.	Boulenger.			
	Two pairs of chin-shields	...	...	...	...	...	38
38.	Loreal only a little longer than deep	...	...	...	...	...	39
	Loreal two or three times as long as deep.						
39.	Scales in 19 rows, 7 upper labials.	Lamprophis	fuscus	Boulenger.			
	Scales in 23 rows, 8 upper labials.	Lamprophis	aurora	(L.)			
40.	Scales without apical pits	...	...	...	...	...	39
	Scales with apical pits	...	...	...	...	...	41
41.	Two pairs of chin-shields	...	...	...	...	...	42
	Three or four pairs of chin-shields.						
42.	Nostril between two nasals, two labials entering the eye.						
	Nostril in a single nasal followed by a small post-nasal, three labials entering the eye.	Lycophidium	capense	(Smith).			
43.	Scales in 17 rows	...	...	...	...	...	44
	Scales in 15 rows	...	...	...	...	...	46
44.	Nostrils between two or three shields	...	...	...	...	...	63
	Nostril in a semi-divided nasal	...	...	...	...	...	45
45.	Less than 150 ventrals, with apical pits.						
	More than 150 ventrals, no apical pits.						
46.	Nasal not in contact with præocular, usually two postoculars						47
	Nasal in contact with præocular, one postocular.						
47.	More than 115 ventrals.	Homalosoma	lutrix	(L.)			
	Less than 110 ventrals.	Homalosoma	variegatum	Peters.			
48.	Pupil round	...	...	...	...	...	50
	Pupil vertical or horizontal	...	...	...	...	...	49
49.	Pupil vertical.	Tarbophis	semiamulatus	(Smith).			
	Pupil horizontal.	Theltonis	kirtlandi	(Hallowe.)			
50.	Scales in 27 or more rows.						
	Scales in less than 27 rows.						
51.	Scales in 19 to 21 rows	...	...	...	...	...	52
	Scales in 17 or less rows	...	...	...	...	...	53
52.	Ventrals 131 to 149, scales not oblique.						
	Ventrals 164 to 201, scales very oblique.						
53.	Scales in 17 rows	...	...	...	...	...	55
	Scales in 15 rows	...	...	...	...	...	54
54.	Temporals 1 & 1, or 1 & 2...	...	...	...	...	...	25
	Temporals 2 & 2, or 2 & 3	...	...	...	...	...	58

55.	Nostril between two nasals and the internasal.					
	Trimerorhinus	...	...	...	...	56
	Nostril not bordered by the internasal	...	...	...	...	57
56.	Eye as long as its distance from the nostril.					
	Trimerorhinus rhombeatus (<i>L.</i>)					
	Eye shorter than its distance from the nostril.					
	Trimerorhinus tritæniatus (<i>Guenther</i>).					
57.	Subcaudals up to 40.					
	Rhamphiophis multimaculatus (<i>Smith</i>).					
	More than 50 subcaudals.					
	Psammophis	...	...	...	...	59
58.	Præocular extensively in contact with the frontal.					
	Psammophis jalkæ <i>Peracca</i> .					
	Præocular not in contact with the frontal.					
	Psammophis crucifer (<i>Daud.</i>)					
59.	Temporals 1 & 1, or 2 & 1	...	...	...	...	60
	Temporals 1 & 2, 2 & 2, 2 & 3, or 3 & 3	...	...	...	...	61
60.	One præocular.					
	Psammophis thomasi <i>Gough</i> .					
	Two præoculars.					
	Psammophis trigrammus <i>Guenther</i> .					
61.	Two præoculars	...	...	...	...	62
	One præocular	...	...	...	...	64
62.	Upper præocular widely separated from the frontal.					
	Psammophis transvaaliensis <i>Gough</i> .					
	Upper præocular in contact with or narrowly separated from the frontal	...	...	...	...	63
63.	Rostral broader than deep (always 2 præoculars).					
	Psammophis notostictus <i>Peters</i> .					
	Rostral as deep as broad (sometimes a single præocular).					
	Psammophis sibilans (<i>L.</i>)					
64.	Præocular extensively in contact with the frontal	...	...	...	...	65
	Præocular just in contact or separated from the frontal	...	...	...	...	66
65.	Snout once and a half as long as eye, loreal once and two thirds as long as deep, rostral as deep as broad.					
	Psammophis furcatus <i>Boettger</i> .					
	Snout one and two thirds as long as eye, loreal twice as long as deep, rostral a little broader than deep.					
	Psammophis leightoni <i>Beulenger</i> .					
66.	Frontal as broad as, or but very little narrower than the supraocular.					
	Psammophis brevirostris <i>Peters</i> .					
	Frontal obviously narrower than the supraocular	...	...	...	...	63
67.	Pupil vertical, Parietals broken up into small shields.					
	Pythonodipsas carinata <i>Guenther</i> .					
	Pupil round, Parietals normal	...	...	...	...	68
68.	Scales in 15 rows.					
	Aparallactus capensis <i>Smith</i> .					
	Scales in more than 15 rows	...	...	...	...	69
69.	No præocular.					
	Macrelaps microlepidotus <i>Guenther</i> .					
	A præocular	...	...	...	...	95
70.	Anal entire	...	...	...	...	71
	Anal divided	...	...	...	...	73
71.	Nostril between two or three nasals and the internasal	...	...	...	...	78
	Nostril in a single or semi-divided nasal, or between 2 nasals	...	...	...	...	72
72.	Scales smooth	...	...	...	...	73
	Scales very strongly keeled.					
	Dasypeltis scabra (<i>L.</i>)					
73.	No præocular.					
	Calamelaps concolor <i>Smith</i> .					
	Præocular present	...	...	...	...	74
74.	Scales in 15 rows	...	...	...	...	76
	Scales from 19 to 25 rows.					
	Dendraspis	...	...	...	...	75

75.	Eight upper labials, upper anterior temporal not longer than the lower.	<i>Dendraspis angusticeps</i> (<i>Smith</i>)	
	Nine upper labials, upper anterior labial twice as long as the lower.	<i>Dendraspis mamba</i> . (<i>Gough</i>)	
76.	Nostril between two nasals	... ..	84
	Nostril in a single nasal.		
	Homorelaps	... ..	77
77.	Temporals 1 & 2.	<i>Homorelaps lacteus</i> (<i>L.</i>)	
	A single temporal.	<i>Homorelaps dorsalis</i> (<i>Smith</i>).	
78.	More than 50 subcaudals.		
	Naia...	... ..	79
	Less than 45 subcaudals	... ..	82
79.	Eye separated from the labials by suboculars	... ..	80
	Labials enter the eye	... ..	81
80.	Scales in 21 or more rows on the neck.	<i>Naia laie</i> (<i>L.</i>)	
	Scales in 17 rows on the neck.	<i>Naia anchietæ</i> (<i>Bocagè</i>).	
81.	Sixth upper labial largest.	<i>Naia flava</i> (<i>Merr.</i>)	
	Third upper labial largest.	<i>Naia nigricollis</i> (<i>Reinh.</i>)	
82.	No præocular	... ..	73
	Præocular present	... ..	83
83.	Eye separated from the labials by suboculars	... ..	88
	Labials enter the eye	... ..	86
84.	Portion of the rostral visible from above $\frac{3}{4}$ or quite as long as its distance from the frontal.	<i>Elapechis sundevalli</i> (<i>Smith</i>).	
	Portion of rostral visible from above not more than $\frac{1}{2}$ its length from the frontal	... ..	85
85.	Portion of rostral visible from above one-third of its distance from the frontal: banded.	<i>Elapechis gnentheri</i> (<i>Bocagè</i>).	
	Portion of the rostral visible from above almost $\frac{1}{2}$ its distance from the frontal: not banded.	<i>Elapechis decosteri</i> (<i>Boulenger</i>).	
86.	Rostral detached on the sides	<i>Aspidelaps</i>	87
	Rostral normal.	<i>Sepeolon hæmachates</i> (<i>Lacép.</i>)	
87.	Ventrals 135 or less.	<i>Aspidelaps scutatus</i> (<i>Smith</i>).	
	Ventrals 146 or more.	<i>Aspidelaps lubricus</i> (<i>Laur.</i>)	
88.	Snout not turned up at end.	<i>Causus rhombeatus</i> (<i>Licht.</i>)	
	Snout turned up at end.	<i>Causus defilippi</i> (<i>Jen.</i>)	
89.	Nostril directed upwards.	<i>Bitis arietans</i> (<i>Merr.</i>)	
	Nostril directed upwards and outwards	... ..	90
90.	No hornlike scales on the head	... ..	91
	Head with hornlike scales	... ..	93
91.	Supraorbital region raised.	<i>Bitis inornata</i> (<i>Smith</i>).	
	Supraorbital region not raised	... ..	92
92.	Outer row of scales keeled.	<i>Bitis atropos</i> (<i>L.</i>)	
	Outer row of scales smooth.	<i>Bitis peringucyi</i> (<i>Boulenger</i>).	
93.	A single hornlike scale above each supranasal.	<i>Bitis gabonica</i> (<i>Dum. & Bibr.</i>)	
	The hornlike scales situated above the eyes	... ..	94
94.	Several supraorbital hornlike scales.	<i>Bitis cornuta</i> (<i>Daud.</i>)	
	A single supraorbital hornlike scale.	<i>Bitis caudalis</i> (<i>Smith</i>).	
95.	Rostral with horizontal edge	... ..	96
	Rostral rounded.	<i>Atractaspis bibroni</i> (<i>Smith</i>).	
96.	Less than 200 ventrals.	<i>Atractaspis ducerdni</i> (<i>Gough</i>).	
	More than 220 ventrals.	<i>Atractaspis rostrata</i> (<i>Guenther</i>).	